

# State of South Carolina

## Governor's Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** acquired immunodeficiency syndrome or AIDS is caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which progressively destroys the body's ability to fight infections and certain cancers by killing or damaging cells of the body's immune system; and

**WHEREAS,** the HIV/AIDS epidemic has taken the lives of more than 20 million people and is projected to take millions more; and

**WHEREAS,** approximately 42 million people worldwide are currently living with HIV/AIDS, with young people under the age of 25 accounting for more than half of all new infections; and

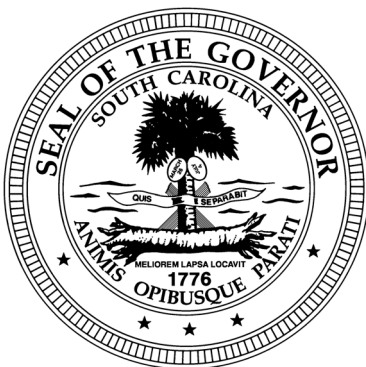
**WHEREAS,** as of the end of 2002, South Carolina ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation for the rate of newly diagnosed cases of AIDS; and

**WHEREAS,** the 2003 observance of World AIDS Day provides an opportunity for people in South Carolina and around the world to join together to support the individuals, families, and communities affected by this disease and to renew our commitment to preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS, developing and delivering more effective treatments, and finding a cure.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim December 1, 2003, as**

### WORLD AIDS DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to remember those who have lost their lives to this deadly disease, to comfort and support those living with and impacted by HIV/AIDS, and to work together to promote continued research into its treatment and cure.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford", written over a horizontal line.

**MARK SANFORD**  
**GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**